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TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND NATIONAL PARK IN 1990

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey of Forestry Canada - Maritimes regularly survey national parks for forest insect and disease conditions, some of which are discussed briefly below.

Many forest insect and disease pests are present throughout forested areas and the PEI National Park is no exception. Conditions in the Park in 1990 were generally good, most obvious being moderate browning of white birch foliage caused by the birch casebearer at Rustico Island and the deterioration of white spruce along footpaths and camping areas near some of the beaches. Many of these spruce trees are dead and the majority are in poor condition from on-shore winds and salt spray affecting the foliage and soil compaction from years of foot traffic and camping activities.

Other pests present in the Park and common on the Island are discussed briefly:

SPRUCE BUDWORM defoliation of spruce and fir was moderate and severe in smaller patches than in 1989 in the Cavendish area.

HEMLOCK LOOPER is mainly a pest of balsam fir but also feeds on spruce; no damage was observed but a few larvae were present on fir and spruce at Rustico Island.

YELLOW WITCHES' BROOM, an abnormal growth caused by a fungus and found on balsam fir twigs and branches was common throughout Prince Edward Island, and present on 10% of trees at Rustico Island.

SPRUCE BUDMOTHS, which feed under the bud caps of new shoots, damaged 27% of the shoots on most white spruce at Stanhope, 13% at Rustico Island and 16% at Cavendish.

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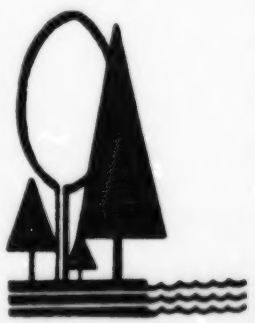

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EASTERN DWARF MISTLETOE, a parasitic plant that stimulates the production of large brooms on black spruce, was common on about 50% of trees in a small mature stand at Stanhope.

BALSAM WOOLLY ADELGID, a tiny insect that inserts its stylet through the bark to feed on cell sap, was present on scattered fir trees on Rustico Island.

BALSAM FIR TIP BLIGHT, which causes new shoots to turn a delicate pinkish-red-brown color, then wilt, and die, was light on scattered trees on Rustico Island.

Other insect pests on conifers:

Eastern blackheaded budworm was present in low numbers on white spruce at Rustico Island and Stanhope; **spruce sawfly** larvae present on scattered white spruce at Rustico Island; **orange spruce needleminer** infested a few white spruce needles at Cavendish; **balsam twig aphid** infested more than 10% of the shoots on balsam fir trees at Rustico Island; **spruce bud midge** infested a few white spruce buds at Cavendish; **balsam gall midge** damaged a few needles on half the trees at Rustico Island; and **eastern spruce gall aphid** damaged a few shoots on numerous white spruce trees in the Cavendish area.

Pests on hardwoods:

GYPSY MOTH is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, the northeastern United States, and recently southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. Twenty-five pheromone traps were placed throughout the Park in 1990 to attract male moths to determine if a population exists in the area. No moths were trapped and no other life forms were found in the Park.

BIRCH CASEBEARER, which lives in a cigar-shaped case and feeds between the surface layers of the leaf, reaching as far as it can without leaving the case, damaged 70% of the foliage on most white birch at Rustico Island and slightly more than 10% of white birch foliage at Cavendish and Stanhope.

BLACK KNOT OF CHERRY forms a hard, black swelling on cherry branches; it affected 60% of pin cherry trees at Stanhope.

WIND DAMAGE - wind whipping of foliage damaged more than 20% of trembling aspen foliage at Cavendish.

Other pests of hardwoods:

Poplar leaffolding sawfly larvae infested trembling aspen foliage at Cavendish and Stanhope; **spotted aspen leafroller** was present on a few of trembling aspen leaves at Cavendish; **poplar serpentine leafminer** infested trembling aspen foliage at Cavendish; **aspen leaf mite** infested 7% of the foliage of scattered trembling aspen trees at Stanhope; **ocellate gall midge** affected 12% of red maple foliage on at Stanhope, and **cherry blight** was common on pin cherry trees at Stanhope and Rustico Island.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Canada

January 16, 1991